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ACTION

January 20, 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR DR. KISSINGER

FROM: John Holdridge

SUBJECT: SNIE on North Vietnam

In pursuance of our conversation yesterday, we attach a memorandum from you to Mr. Helms setting forth the questions to be covered by the SNIE on North Vietnam.

RECOMMENDATION:

That you sign the memorandum to Mr. Helms at Tab A.

Attachment

JHH:WRS:alh (1/20/70)

NSS review completed.

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MEMORANDUM FOR

THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

SUBJECT: SNIE on North Vietnam

I believe it would be useful to have an SNIE on the general topic of "The Outlook from Hanoi" and would appreciate your initiating this project. The SNIE should address the following subjects:

1. How does Hanoi now see the situation in South Vietnam?
2. How does Hanoi leadership now expect the conflict to evolve?
3. How does Hanoi view the prospects for Vietnamization?
4. What is the current domestic situation in North Vietnam, and what are the prospects (manpower; the economy; party attitudes; popular attitudes)?
5. What are the effects of Ho Chi Minh's death on the leadership, the party, the army (NVA and VC), and the population?
6. How does Hanoi view the current Sino-Soviet tension, and how would its situation and policies be affected by the outbreak of overt Sino-Soviet hostilities?
7. On the basis of these assessments, what are the choices open to the leadership? Which policies is it likely to adopt?

The suspense date for the SNIE is February 6, 1970.

Henry A. Kissinger

HAK:JHH:WRS:alh (1/20/70)

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